

FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Buffalo Roam Iowa Prairie for First Time in 150 Years

Abraham Lincoln was still a little-known country lawyer when the buffalo were last seen on the Iowa prairie. Now, 150 years later, they're back.

Shortly after sunrise on Oct. 9, Walnut Creek NWR Manager Dick Birger opened the back door of a large trailer and freed eight bison transported from Fort Niobrara NWR in Nebraska. The first pair eagerly stepped out into an acclimation pen on the refuge's newly restored tallgrass prairie and immediately began to feast on the lush plants awaiting them. Two hours later, with a little coaxing, the other six joined them.

The reintroduction of the buffalo, timed to coincide with National Wildlife Refuge Week, is one of many steps taken at Walnut Creek to complete the largest tallgrass prairie restoration in the country. The refuge currently has 5,000 acres of restored prairie with plans to expand to 8,654 acres as land becomes available.


The restored land already has attracted prairie birds seldom seen



At home again. The bison reintroduced on Walnut Creek NWR settle in and feast on the tall plants within the acclimation pen. The gate was opened shortly after this shot to set them free into permanent pasture. Photo by Mark Hirsch, courtesy of the *Dubuque Telegraph Herald*.

on the Iowa farm landscape including upland sandpipers and bobolinks. "We've come a long way," Birger said. "Bringing back the bison is a symbolic thing."

Four calves, two yearlings and two 2-year-olds — four of each sex — were joined by six more bison from Wichita Mountains NWR in Oklahoma at the end of October. The refuge sits on a huge tract of land that originally was purchased by a utility company for a nuclear power plant. When plans to build the plant changed, former U.S. Representative Neal Smith led the effort to restore prairie on the site.

Meanwhile, construction continues at Walnut Creek for the state-of-the-art Prairie Learning Center. The Learning Center, slated to open next spring, will include a wealth of exhibits, outstanding views of the surrounding prairie, and the chance to get a glimpse of the majestic bison which once again are home on the range. 

— Larry Dean,
Public Affairs, Minneapolis

Government Performance and Results Act — Unlike TQM, This One's Got Teeth

In 1993, Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act, a law to improve the confidence of the American people in the Federal government by systematically holding Federal agencies accountable for results, service quality, and customer satisfaction in their programs. The Service is now moving to implement this law.

Sound like another paper-pushing exercise? Think you can hold your breath and wait until it goes away? Better think again. GPRA is no TQM. This one's got teeth.

Starting in the 1999 budget cycle, Congress and the President's Office of Management and Budget are going to link our funding to how well we achieve the performance

goals developed in the strategic planning process. And because of that, it will change the way we do business. It will influence the work we do and our ability to do the work.

Admittedly, past planning efforts haven't had much impact. The field continued doing what the field does and let Washington do what Washington does.

The current budget process reflects this way of doing business. Congress provides funding, and, in turn, the Service allocates the funding in a number of different ways. No single system is used to evaluate and report back what is done. For example, in the Service, we have a potpourri of program plans, ecosystem plans, Director's priorities, and performance plans

for members of the Directorate. The annual budget basically says what we are doing and that we need more money to do more of it.

GPRA is different. It requires the Service to say what it is going to achieve, how it is going to achieve it, and measure whether or not it was achieved. But the real kicker is that it requires the Service to show who benefited and how they benefited. Then, when we ask for funding, Congress and OMB will link our funding to the value and benefit of our performance to the public.

In short, GPRA requires all federal agencies to develop a strategic plan, to be approved by Congress and OMB, with performance goals stated in measurable outcomes (quantifiable results), performance plans for each activity stating how those goals will be achieved, and evaluation processes to measure that achievement. Agencies must then show the benefit of the outcome to the public.

The powers-that-be in the administration and Congress are watching carefully how the law is implemented. For example, Frank Raines, the new director of OMB, has stated that he will not even look at budgets that are not aligned with strategic plans that show performance measures and evaluation processes. "Those budgets will be sent back," Raines said.

One can safely conclude that any agency not meeting the GPRA requirements would not be in a good position when budget allocations are made.

Are there any benefits in GPRA to the Service? Will it work to our advantage? The answer is yes. It gives focus to our mission, it provides a management tool to use in our day-to-day operations, it gives a clear picture of our importance to the public's interest, and it provides a single reporting process.

Will all this be achieved this year? No. We are required to have an approved strategic plan and an annual performance plan by September 1997. In reality, however, we have to have the strategic plan done in the Spring of 1997 so it can be used during planning for the FY 1999 budget cycle.

The Service has adopted an action plan to meet GPRA requirements. A small working group of senior-level employees will be appointed by Acting Director John Rogers to start drafting mission goals and performance goals. In December, a group of employees from all levels and divisions of the Service will come together to review and modify, if necessary, the draft mission goals and performance goals developed by the working group.

In January the Service will consult with its partners and customers, as required by GPRA, through workshops, interviews, and surveys. By February, the draft plan should be ready for consideration by the Directorate. Once approved, it will then be used in developing the budget for FY 1999.

The Service's work will then reflect the performance measures developed to meet the goals of the strategic plan. We will have to prepare a performance report by March 31, 2000 (and annually thereafter) comparing actual program performance with the performance goals. This report has to explain and describe where a



Fire on the land. Elise Smith, a volunteer at Wichita Mountains NWR, snapped this shot of a controlled burn to win the "Work of the Service" category in the Region Two photo contest.

performance goal has not been met, why the goal was not met, and the plans and schedules for achieving the goal.

Obviously, we have a big job before us. In the past, agencies have focused on "outputs" defined as the tabulation, calculation, or recording of activity or effort which can be expressed in a quantitative or qualitative manner. Now, we must shift gears and focus on

"outcomes." Outcomes are an assessment of the results of a program compared to its intended purpose.

We are all going to feel the impact of this process. We'll keep you posted on the progress of the planning process in this newsletter, through your divisions, regions, and GARDS.

—Kathy Tynan,
Planning, Washington



Up close and personal. Bill Radtke, refuge manager at Bitter Lake NWR in New Mexico, captured his daughter Shannon's close encounter with a horned lizard to take first prize in the public use category of a photo contest held by Region 2 in honor of National Wildlife Refuge Week. More than 260 photographs were judged by a panel of professional photographers. Categories included plants and animals, landscape, work of the Service, public use, and humor.

"BULLY!" Roosevelt Proclaims During Second National Wildlife Refuge Week

"A bully affair!" President Teddy Roosevelt declared. Half a million wildlife enthusiasts agreed with him. The second annual "National Wildlife Refuge Week" in October was a great success — and Teddy was everywhere.

Roosevelt showed up at Pelican Island in Florida, which he established in 1903 as the nation's first wildlife refuge, on Oct. 3 to kick off refuge week and witness the signing of a major new cooperative agreement between the Service and the Audubon Society to collaborate on local and national projects benefitting the refuge system.

Roosevelt then took an airplane, invented the same year the refuge system was founded, to Anchorage for Region 7's Open House, riding in on a brown horse to the cheers of the crowd at the regional headquarters. He stayed around to help judge the region's first-ever "baked menagerie" contest in which chefs from the community baked food items that looked like Alaskan wildlife species (first prize went to a large eagle carved out of suet and bees' wax).

Along the way, Roosevelt stopped by E.B. Forsythe NWR in New Jersey to help Acting Director John Rogers present U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo with a plaque recognizing the congressman's efforts to have a former Coast Guard electronic engineering center transferred to the Service.

In an exclusive interview with *Fish and Wildlife News*, President Roosevelt said he was delighted to learn that 500,000 Americans turned out for open houses and other events at refuges from Hawaii to Maine. At least 20,000 students took part in hands-on environmental education programs and amateur and professional photographers shot more than a million photographs.

"Starting the refuge system was one of the best decisions I ever made," Roosevelt told *FWN*. "Look at the fine time people are

having enjoying the wildlife of our great land."

Roosevelt said refuge managers and staff showed great imagination in designing the events. He said he was especially pleased the "Make A Wish Foundation" arranged a visit to the Hopper Mountain NWR in California so 18-year-old Sean Morrissey, who has a rare form of cancer, could see a California condor. (Sean is the nephew of Nancy Morrissey, assistant manager, Oregon Coastal Refuges.) And he was thrilled the Service returned buffalo to native grasslands at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge nears Des Moines, Iowa, for the first time this century.

"Men used to shoot the bison out of train windows until they were almost gone," Roosevelt said. "Now thanks to the conservation movement I helped start when I was president, the buffalo is back in Iowa once again enjoying the native grasslands that had all but disappeared from the land."

Roosevelt eagerly read the cover article on the refuge system in the



Blue geese and girls. Julia and Lauren Will show off their Blue Goose tattoos at a National Wildlife Refuge Week event at St. Marks NWR in Florida. Photo by Robin Will.

October issue of the *National Geographic* magazine. "It's great to see the refuge system get the recognition it deserves," he said. "Everyone in America knows about our system of national parks which I started, but a lot of people aren't

even aware that we have a refuge system. I hope the Service meets its 100-100 goal of making every American aware of this national treasure by 2003, the 100th anniversary of my establishing Pelican Island." 🐾



TR arrives. Teddy Roosevelt (a.k.a. Chuck Fullerton) rode in on a horse at the regional headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska, as part of a National Wildlife Refuge Week celebration. Photo by Kathryn Crawford.

Hautmans Reign at Duck Stamp Contest — Again

In the recently released movie *Fargo*, the artistic husband of the town police chief struggles to finally beat the Hautman brothers to win the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

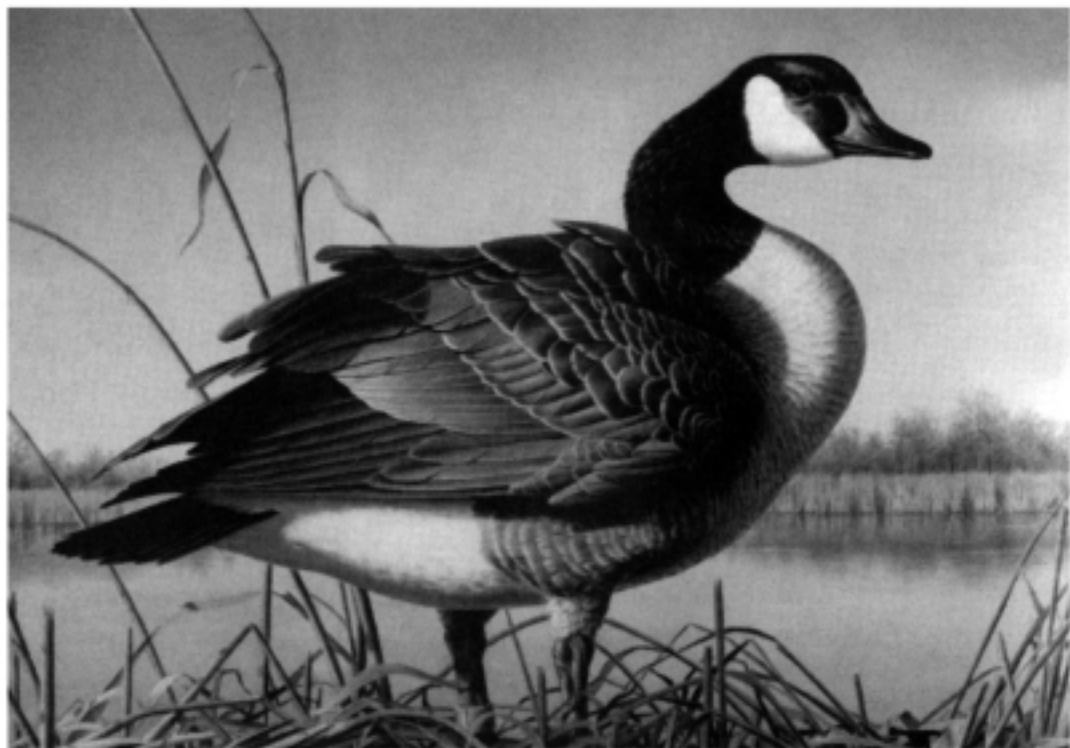
He didn't make it. The Hautmans have done it again.

In October, Robert Hautman became the third Hautman to win the prestigious contest, following his brothers Joe, who won in 1991, and Jim, who won in 1989 and 1994. Robert's acrylic painting of a single Canada goose in a wetland habitat beat out 476 other entries and will be featured on the 1997-98 Duck Stamp.

The victory ended a string of near-misses for Robert. He had been a finalist in the contest five previous times, including finishing runner-up to his brother in the 1994 contest. "Now people will stop saying, 'Next year it's your turn to win,'" he said.

Second place in this year's contest went to Hank Buffington of Stockton, New Jersey, for a portrayal of a single pintail on water. Third place went to past winner Bruce Miller of Mound, Minnesota, for his acrylic painting of two pintails in a wetland habitat.

Hautman modeled his design for this year's contest on the painting he used in 1994, except that he added the habitat. "The Canada goose is such a majestic bird I wanted to paint a much simpler



Robert Hautman's acrylic painting of a single Canada goose won the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest.


stamp — the bird makes for a good stamp standing alone," he said.

Asked to explain the family secret, Hautman said: "Each year the contest is different, but what it always takes to win is hard work and spending many hours in the field observing ducks and geese. I am always going out to watch them. Often I'll just stop my car and get

out and watch. There are certain things about birds you simply can't see by looking at photographs."

The Hautman brothers' home state of Minnesota is to the Duck Stamp contest what the Yankees are to baseball. Twelve Duck Stamp artists have been born, raised, or resided at one time in Minnesota. Three of these have won the contest

more than once.

Money raised through sale of Duck Stamps (waterfowl hunters over 16 must buy one) is used to purchase wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934, the more than \$500 million raised from Duck Stamp sales has been used to acquire more than 4.5 million acres for the system. 

Information Resources Corner

(As a regular feature of Fish and Wildlife News, the Division of Information Resources Management will provide information on technological issues related to the Service's conservation mission.)

Geographic Information System Web Page Upgraded and Expanded


The National Office of Data Administration has updated and expanded the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information on the Service's World Wide Web site. The new address is <http://www.fws.gov/data/gishome.html>.

Now featured on the site is an extensive list of public domain data sources and detailed information on the Service's metadata (spatial data documentation) procedures. Much of the metadata information can also be sent via e-mail.

These information sources are intended to assist field and regional

offices in locating data at reduced cost, and to make the process of documenting new and existing data sets less painful. There is also information on training sources, general background, information on GIS and GIS data types, contract information, Global Positioning Systems data, and a section on

current uses of GIS in the Service's mission.

This section may give you some ideas on how other offices are using this technology. Come and visit soon! 

— The Division of Information Resources Management (IRM)

Stakeholders Discuss Enhancing Recreational Fisheries at Phoenix Meeting

More than 75 representatives of state natural resource agencies, conservation groups, Native American tribes, and the fishing and boating industries met in Phoenix, Arizona, in October to discuss ways to establish priorities and better coordinate recreational fisheries management programs with Federal agencies.

Participants focused on working with landowners to improve habitat and access, compiling comprehensive data on the economic benefits of fishing, and increasing public awareness of fishery issues.

They also discussed four aspects of fisheries management: habitat conservation, development and maintenance of access facilities, public education, and partnerships. These categories correspond with those outlined in the Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan released earlier this year that outlines Federal agencies' role in improving recreational fishery resources and fishing opportunities.

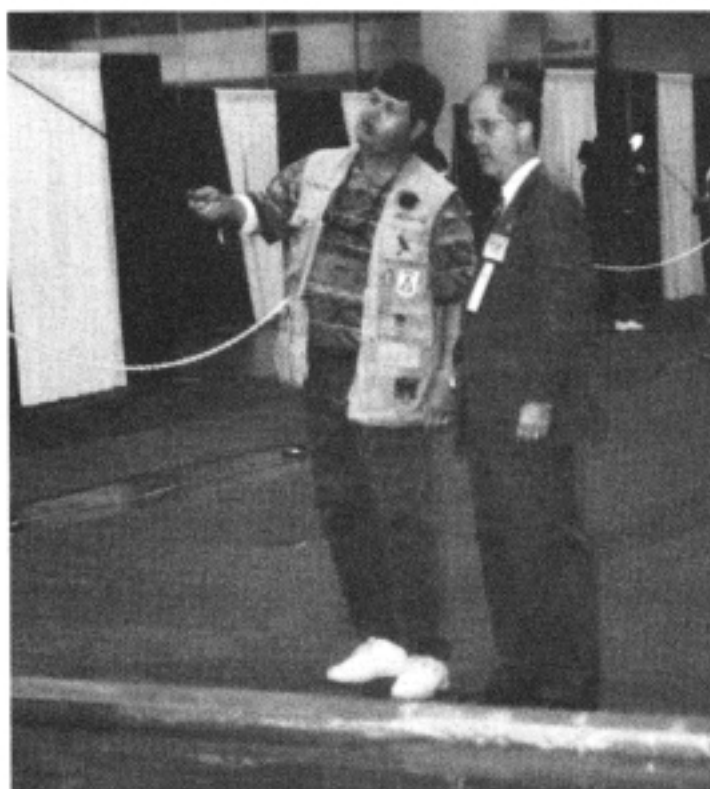
For habitat conservation, the group's top recommendations were

developing partnerships with private landowners to protect aquatic habitats, expanding matching fund programs for habitat projects, and developing major watershed plans.

On fishing access, the top recommendations were offering incentives to private landowners to provide access to fishing, dedicating a state marine fuel tax to access, and developing adequate access to urban fisheries.

For public education, they advised establishing more urban fishery enhancement programs; developing ways to measure the success of education and outreach programs; and increasing partnerships among conservation organizations, sportfishing groups, and outdoor clubs.

Related to partnerships, the top recommendations were more industry promotion of the economic importance of fishing, increased industry involvement in setting legislative priorities, and continuing fisheries stakeholder meetings on a regular basis.



Casting call. Acting Director John Rogers gets a fly fishing lesson at the American Sportfishing Association's annual trade show in New Orleans. Rogers presented appreciation plaques to industry partners who display the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration logo on their products. ASA President Mike Hayden also presented Rogers with an award for the Service's role in developing the Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan and the policy on administration of the Endangered Species Act as it relates to recreational fisheries. Photo by Ed Goldstein.

"The group generated a lot of food for thought by identifying key fisheries issues around which America's angling interests can join hands and work together," said Acting Director John Rogers.

The National Fisheries Stakeholders Meeting was sponsored by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the American Sportfishing Association. The Council serves as a Federal advisory panel to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Service director, on fishing and boating issues. The American Sportfishing Association is a non-profit trade association representing the sportfishing industry.

In August 1995, former Service Director Mollie Beattie requested the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council convene fisheries stakeholder meetings to

compile recommendations on the appropriate role of the Service in recreational fisheries management. The Council subsequently sponsored several such meetings and used the information gathered from stakeholders to complete a formal report, which was presented to Rogers in August 1996.

At that time, the Council recommended additional stakeholder meetings both at the national level and regional level. Rogers concurred with this recommendation, suggested the Council move forward on organizing the national meeting in Phoenix, and instructed the Service's regional offices to host the Regional meetings. The Service has begun the regional meetings and plans to complete them within the next few months.

—Janet Tennyson,
Public Affairs, Washington



A distinguished career honored. Longtime Service employee Harvey Nelson unveils a marker designating a 369-acre wetland, grassland, and oak savanna restoration near his home town of Evanston, Minnesota, as "the Harvey Nelson Habitat Restoration Project." Nelson, whose Service career spanned more than four decades, served as first U.S. executive director of the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, the first director of the Northern Prairie Science Center in Jamestown, North Dakota, and regional director for Region 3. The restoration project, a cooperative effort between the Service and Ducks Unlimited, is located in the Case Waterfowl Production Area, on the glaciated drift prairie, a transition zone in Minnesota's prairie pothole region. Photo by Larry Dean.

Father Goose Teaches Children About Birds in Service's Distant Learning Program



Everything but feathers. Mimi Westervelt of the Service's National Education and Training Center stands with Father Goose, a.k.a. Bill Lishman, in front of the ultra light airplane he used to lead a flock of young geese on a migration. Lishman's work with the geese became a Columbia Pictures feature movie, *Fly Away Home*.

Most school children learn from Mother Goose that the cow jumped over the moon, but do they know that millions of birds migrate each spring and fall by the light of the moon? Thanks to Father Goose and a new Service outreach program, many of them do now.

Father Goose, a.k.a. Bill Lishman, was the star of *Migratory Birds: Finding Their Way Home*, a live satellite broadcast on Oct. 10 beamed from the Airlie Environmental Center in Prince

William County, Virginia, to as many as 1.5 million school children across the country.

Lishman, who became famous when he used an ultra light aircraft to lead a flock of young Canada geese on a migration, joined Service biologists to teach the children everything from how birds migrate to what students themselves can do to improve habitat.

The broadcast was an experimental pilot in a series of satellite "distant learning" programs put together by the National Education and Training Center in conjunction with state and private sector partners.

In this case, the partner was the Prince William County public school system. The programs combine formal classroom curriculum with high-quality video and live interactive broadcast capabilities that allow students to ask questions.

The second broadcast, *Protecting Endangered Species: In the Shadow of the Shuttle*, aired live from Florida's Merritt Island

NWR, Nov. 14-15, 1996, to schools across the nation. The broadcast was the result of a partnership with Turner Educational Services and the Service's Refuges Division, NETC, and Region 4.

The third broadcast, entitled *Wild Wings Heading South!* aired Nov. 20-22 from Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico and England's Welney Wild Fowl Reserve. The Service's partners were the British Broadcasting Corporation, National Audubon Society, and the Public Broadcasting Service. It brought thousands of sandhill cranes, snow geese, and European whooper swans into classrooms around the globe.

The broadcasts are one of many efforts to reach out to schools and other audiences with educational and training programs related to fish and wildlife conservation. For further information, contact Steve Hillebrand, Gary Stolz or Mimi Westervelt at the NETC in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

— Gary Stolz, NETC,
Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Historic Hatchery Celebrates 100 Years

The year was 1896. Americans were still driving horse and buggies. The Wright Brothers were years away from their first flight. Grover Cleveland was finishing up his second term as president. And Congress created the Spearfish National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, South Dakota, to produce trout for stocking in the Black Hills.

On its 100th anniversary this year, the hatchery, now called the D.C. Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery, is still producing trout for the Black Hills. It also is providing a far less tangible but arguably more important product — aquatic education.

Visitors long have enjoyed feeding the fish and touring the tranquil grounds, making the hatchery one of the Black Hills' major tourist attractions. Today, however, they are learning the fundamentals of fish culture, resource

management and aquatic ecosystems.

The hatchery includes a popular underwater fish viewing area, a fishery museum in the century-old original hatchery building, the Fish Culture Hall of Fame, a pond shop store, and the new National Fishery Artifact and Record Center.

The hatchery, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, operates through a series of five partnerships. The Service owns the property, provides operational staff and serves as the hub or coordination point. The non-profit Booth Society, Inc., is a citizen-run supportive arm to the hatchery that raises funds and provides services.

The spirit of partnership was an important factor in the recent \$3.8 million rehabilitation of the hatchery and bodes well for its next 100 years. In the meantime, it is a rare visitor who goes away disappointed — or uneducated. ➤



History on display. U.S. Fisheries 40, a wooden cabin cruiser once used for fish rescue operations on the Mississippi River, is on now on display at D.C. Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery. The boat's rescue operations saved fish stranded by receding flood waters and either returned them to the river or shipped them to other parts of the country for stocking. These operations required a fast boat that could carry many containers of fish. Today, the boat offers a unique opportunity to educate thousands of visitors a year about the history of fisheries management and the role of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Photo by Bonnie Ciegler.

A Summer With the Service: One Student's Story

The Ecological Services Field Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, has participated in the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students [RAPS] for two summers. Started in 1987, RAPS is a partnership of rural communities, schools, and state, federal and private agencies to educate youth about their environment and make them aware of career paths available in natural resource management. Alexis Epps, a Pre-Veterinary Science major at New Mexico State University, worked at the Cheyenne office last summer.

My first day on the job was a blur, perhaps because I was so excited to be working with the Fish and Wildlife Service. When biologist Kim Dickerson, my supervisor, said "Going out in the field," I figured, "OK, so I'll get a little dirty and slightly sunburned, no big deal."

What I didn't realize was that getting dirty to Kim meant wearing waders, slogging through knee deep mud under a hot sun, climbing through barbed wire fences, and suffering tons of mosquitoes and deer flies that bite so hard your arms swell up.

Even if I had known about this from the beginning, I still would have taken the job. Through all the dirt and bothersome bugs there were great things that made the bug bites a little less painful such as the time Kim and I went canoeing. We saw a deer, two fawns, and all of these beautiful birds. I had never canoeed before, so for me it was wonderful.

We were collecting bugs and avocet eggs out in the field. These lakes had high concentrations of selenium, which is affecting the wildlife, mainly the avocets. From what I understand, the bugs accumulate high concentrations of selenium, the birds eat the bugs and so goes the chain reaction. Many of the avocet eggs are not hatching due to this problem. Never in my life have I paid so much attention to birds.

Biologist Mary Jennings, who is part of the endangered species section, showed me how to read some of the maps of endangered species of Wyoming. They look at these maps whenever a company

wants to develop a certain piece of land for a project to see if there are endangered species living in the area.

I also helped with work on the endangered Wyoming toad, which is now being reintroduced into the wild. The tadpoles are shipped from a zoo and then transplanted to tanks at refuges near Laramie. Once they become toadlets, they are taken out of the tanks and placed at the edge of the lakes.

In addition, I learned how to feed prairie dogs at the black-footed ferret facility at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Ferrets eat prairie dogs, so we trap prairie dogs, quarantine them for two weeks and release them at the ferret facility. The idea is for ferrets to learn how to hunt for themselves so that when they are released into the wild they'll be able to survive.

Someone asked me "if I was really doing work, or was I just having fun?" My reply was "let's just call it enjoyable work," because it was.

— Alexis Epps,
RAPS Student
Cheyenne, Wyoming



RAPS student Alexis Epps collects aquatic invertebrates with a dip net at the Kendrick Reclamation project in Wyoming. Photo by Pedro Ramirez.



Orchid found. Sound biology, good detective work and teamwork among Service and state biologists led to the first-ever discovery of the threatened Ute ladies'-tresses orchids in Idaho. After finding the orchid in Wyoming, Montana, and Utah, recovery team leader Lucy Jordan and botanist Larry England trained biologists with other federal agencies and the Idaho Conservation Data Center to search eastern Idaho meadows and riparian areas. The result? Bob Mosely and colleagues with the Idaho Conservation Data Center discovered two populations of orchids in habitats associated with the Snake River east of Idaho Falls. This is a significant range extension and reinforces understanding of the evolutionary origins of the species and its habitat preferences. Photo by Lucy Jordan.

Virginia Farmers, Service Become "Partners for Wildlife"

Maybe they're not John Muir or Aldo Leopold, but in their own way Virginia farmers Tom Davenport, Bill Fannon, and Clark Trader are just as inspirational. Each has gone to a great deal of effort and expense to restore wildlife habitat on his land because he thought it was the right thing to do.

Even so, they couldn't have done it alone. It took the Service's "Partners for Wildlife" program to turn their desire to help the environment into a reality.

During a recent bus tour for Service employees arranged by the Virginia Field Office and the Division of Habitat Conservation, the three men explained what they had done.

Davenport told how cattle waste was running into a nearby stream from the pen where he keeps bulls on his Delaplane, Virginia, farm. He wanted to clean it up, but the cost and the heavy work involved in driving fenceposts into the rocky ground were an obstacle.

In a project arranged by the Virginia Field Office's Bridget Costanzo, the Service put up \$7,500 and Davenport \$6,000 to build fences to keep the bulls out of the stream and spring-fed troughs to provide water for the animals. Davenport's three hired men did the hard work. The result is a cleaner stream, fewer pollutants flowing into the Chesapeake Bay, and better water for his cattle.

The next stop on the tour was Fannon's farm near Culpeper where, with the Service's help, he has turned a pasture into a small pond. The pasture was in a floodplain and had been drained by a ditch, but Fannon kept getting his tractor stuck in the mud.

With design specifications provided by the Virginia Field Office's Ed Temple and financial assistance from Ducks Unlimited and the "Partners" program, Fannon created a beautiful 20-acre wetland filled with wood ducks, mallards, and geese. Remarkably, the water control structure survived the floods of Hurricane Fran. "Ed really knows what he's doing," Fannon said.

Neighbor John Bechtel likes the pond so much he wants to restore a

wetland on his adjoining property. "It's so beautiful down here early in the morning with the birds and the steam coming off the water," Bechtel said.

Trader traces his interest in restoring a wetland on his farm near Fredericksburg to an ad he saw in a Ducks Unlimited magazine. When DU couldn't take on his project, he called the Service. With the addition of two low-level dikes and changes to an existing water control structure, he turned a pasture and a small pond into a 17-acre wetland.

Fences were erected to keep cattle out of the wetland and a nearby stream, and a new well provided water for cattle troughs. The completed project provides excellent wildlife habitat and improves water quality by filtering runoff before it reaches nearby Drake's Marsh and the Rappahannock River.

Eagles nest along the perimeter of the project and Trader has seen every species of North American dabbling duck in the pond. (His license plate reads: ICA DUCK.) As Trader walks the property, he displays a quiet pride and deep enjoyment of the area's wildlife.

Costanzo and Temple both emphasize the importance of listening to landowners in partnership efforts. "You have to be really sensitive to the landowner," said Costanzo, who had little background in agriculture before joining the "Partners" program. "You can't be too pushy. Certain things you'll never agree on and you just have to accept that."

Temple concurs: "I try to make the landowner feel like it's his project, not the government telling him how it has to be. I say, what would you like?"

The approach has created a lot of happy landowners across the country. All told, the "Partners" program quietly has restored 350,000 acres of wetlands, 190,000 acres of grasslands, and 600 miles of riparian and instream habitats under 14,000 cooperative agreements, and there's still a waiting list of 2,000 landowners who want help restoring habitat on their property.

— Megan Durham,
Public Affairs, Washington



Virginia farmer Tom Davenport at his bull paddock. "Partners for Wildlife" helped him prevent animal waste from polluting a nearby stream, an effort he says is important to the Chesapeake Bay as well as closer to home. Photo by Don MacLean.



Clark Trader is so pleased about his restored wetland that he bushwhacked a path just so 40 Service employees could walk around more easily to see it. Eagles nest nearby. Photo by Don MacLean.



Bill Fannon's 20-acre restored wetland withstood Hurricane Fran, thanks to a design by the Service's Ed Temple (at left in dark glasses). Photo by Don MacLean.

Service Stars in Sturgeon Show

Service employees from across the country contributed interviews and technical assistance in the production of *Sturgeon: Ancient Survivors of the Deep*, a one-hour documentary for public television. The show, three years in the making, will be aired throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe over the next two years. It also is available to public libraries and schools.

The documentary highlights sturgeon research and management activities conducted by Service offices, as well as State fishery departments, conservation organizations, and universities. Some of the topics include genetic research and gene tagging, world-

wide conservation efforts, sportfishing, and aquaculture.

Sturgeon were once widely distributed throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Within the last 50 years, wild populations of these bizarre-looking fish have declined dramatically because of habitat loss brought about by construction of dams and channelization, overfishing, and pollution. The Service is involved in many aspects of sturgeon conservation. If you would like to view a videotape of the documentary, contact Mark Dryer, Missouri River Fishery Assistance Office, Bismarck, North Dakota, 701-250-4419.

— Mark Dryer, Fisheries,
Bismarck, North Dakota



Ancient fish. Service fishery biologist Steve Krentz holds a pallid sturgeon captured in a drift net at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Photo by Mark Dryer.

Slithering Justice

Who says there is no justice?

A research assistant from the University of Arizona was working on a reptile research project at Leslie Canyon NWR when two thieves broke into her truck and stole numerous items. When she discovered what had happened, the assistant climbed into the truck and took off down the road hoping to get a license plate or description.

Eventually, she came upon two men trying to wave her down by an overturned truck. On the ground around the truck were many of the stolen items. She drove to

the nearest ranch and called the sheriff's office. When the deputies arrived, both of the men had fled. One of them was located at a nearby hospital where he was undergoing treatment for internal injuries suffered in the accident.

Police believe the two men were fleeing the scene of the crime at high speed when one of them opened a stolen container. The contents? Live snakes.

Hence the accident. 



Handshake at Humpy Creek. Acting Director John Rogers congratulates Wildlife Forever Executive Director Doug Grann for helping raise funds to purchase a Native-owned inholding on Humpy Creek, a salmon river within Kodiak NWR in Alaska. Wildlife Forever, a Minnesota-based non-profit group that funds projects to protect America's wildlife heritage, put together a \$50,000 challenge grant that was matched 2-for-1 by the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust. "The Trust and Wildlife Forever did a great job working together to protect this area," Rogers said. "The Humpy Creek property is a top priority acquisition because it is located in a highly developable area at the mouth of a productive salmon stream." Photo courtesy of Wildlife Forever.

Service Employees Provide Olympic Security

Rubbing shoulders daily with star athletes, celebrities, and even royalty, 21 Service employees experienced what one called a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" helping to provide security for the Olympic games this summer in Atlanta.

The group included 12 law enforcement special agents and three national wildlife refuge officers from across the country. They were joined by six others: biologists; safety engineers; and a computer specialist from the Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta.

Throughout the Olympics in July and August, they worked as many as 12 hours a day at athletic venues around metro-Atlanta. Biologist James Burnett worked at equestrian events at Georgia International Horse Park, checking the credentials of officials and athletes and inspecting the bags and parcels brought in by spectators. The Crown Prince of Norway was among the many international visitors he met.

Regional office employee Brian Hardison met many stars, including gymnastic hero Kerri Strug. He spoke with her daily and was impressed with "how down-to-earth she was in terms of her future after the Olympics."

Hardison said he was impressed by the talent, skill and fortitude displayed by so many of the athletes. "Their goal to become the best at their chosen sport," he said, "was highly evident from the intensity of their practice sessions."

Although Federal workers assigned to Olympic security details received special training prior to reporting for their assignments, the training did not prepare them for all contingencies. For instance, it didn't include procedures for finding missing parents.

Ken Cooper, Southeast region safety chief, said the highlight of his Olympics was reuniting a lost child with his frantic mother at the Olympic Park, an area densely packed with hundreds of thousands of people. It took him 45 minutes to find the mother. For five minutes, the mother and son held each other tightly, unable to speak, clearly overcome with joy. "Finally, she

raised her head, looked at me and said, Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you," Cooper said.

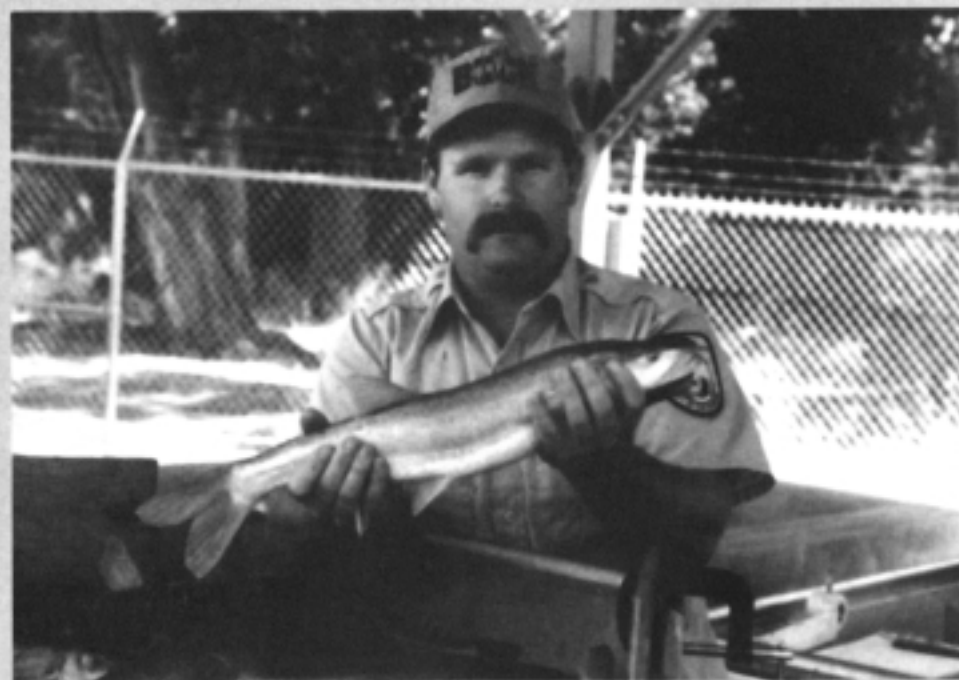
Unfortunately, all the endings were not so happy. Few will forget the shock and horror of the bomb that exploded in the Olympic Park. George Hines, a law enforcement special agent, was on duty that evening at the Lake Lanier venue, site of the rowing and canoeing events.

"The radio call came in at about 1:30 a.m. I was responsible for security at the law enforcement command post. I can't describe the feelings that came over me at the time...My thoughts were that the bombing in Centennial Park may be the first of several incidents. I had feelings of anger that anyone could be that callous toward human life. I thought, does the individual responsible not realize that the Olympic games are a celebration of life itself? How dare anyone try to extinguish the Olympic flame through deeds such as this."

—Diana Hawkins,
Public Affairs, Atlanta



Faster, higher, safer. The structure that held the Olympic flame towers over a group of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees, who served in Atlanta as Security officers during the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. All are wearing the special uniform provided by the Olympic Committee to all Olympic Security staff other than professional law enforcement officers. Left to Right: Brian Hardison, Tom Bender, Ken Cooper, James Burnett and Dick Ivarie from the Service's Southeast Regional Office.



Over the dam. Biological technician Brian Scheer holds the first endangered fish to swim up a newly constructed 350-foot fish ladder to circumvent the Redlands Diversion Dam on the Gunnison River near Grand Junction. The 22.5-inch Colorado squawfish was the first endangered fish to migrate upstream of the dam for nearly a century. Its safe passage bodes well for the recovery of the species in the upper Gunnison. "The fish ladder is a great example of a project that promotes recovery of endangered fish while accommodating diversion of water resources for irrigation and hydroelectric power," said Regional Director Ralph Morgenweck. Photo by Bruce Bauerle.

Love Story: Service Helps Woodpeckers End Loneliness Among the Pines

It was love at first flight. In the early morning hours of September 4, 1996, "Old Woody" began to chirp just as he had every morning the past eight years. Having become used to not getting a response from other red-cockaded woodpeckers, he continued his morning routine of pecking away at his favorite pine tree on Pee Dee NWR in North Carolina.

This morning, however, was different. "Old Woody" heard what to him must have been as pleasant as the sound of an airplane to the Skipper on Gilligan's Island. From deep within an artificial nesting cavity recently installed in a nearby tree, a red-cockaded woodpecker called back.

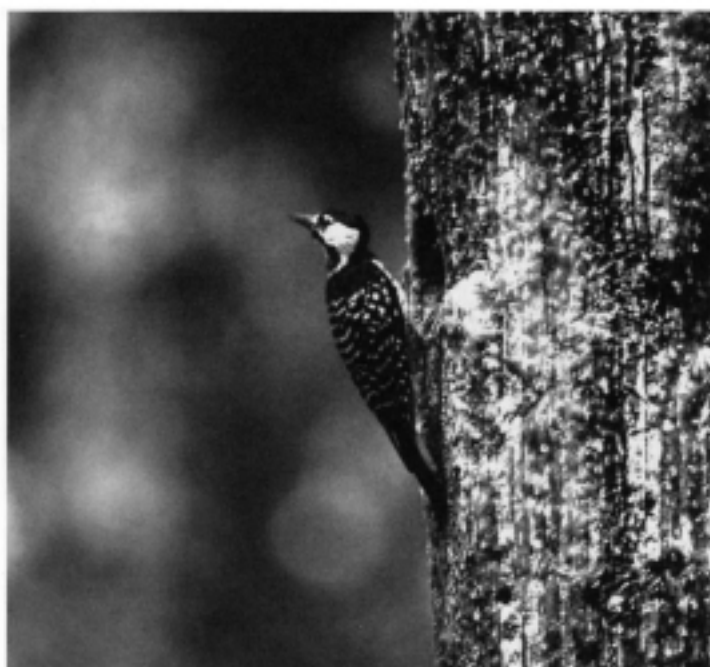
To understand what "Old Woody" and his species have been through, one must go back in time to 1492. The year Europeans first set foot in the Americas there were an estimated 92 million acres of longleaf pine forest stretching across what was to become the southern United States, from Virginia to Texas. In this forest shaped by thousands of years of annual fires, bison, elk, red wolf,

black bear, Florida panther and the red-cockaded woodpecker were abundant.

By 1930, more than 90 percent of the virgin longleaf pine forests had been cut over or cleared for farming. Only a few pockets of mature longleaf pine habitat required by the woodpecker remained. Although less ideal, a mix of loblolly and longleaf pine occurs on Pee Dee, serving as an island of habitat for the woodpeckers in a sea of agriculture and development.

The staff of Pee Dee actively manages the land to enhance habitat for these endangered woodpeckers. Surveys are directed, controlled burns are conducted, artificial nesting cavities are installed, and woodpeckers may be reintroduced from more stable populations.

On "Old Woody's" lucky morning, Refuge Manager Mike Ielmini was hiding in the bushes. With one firm tug, he pulled off a screen that kept an eager young female woodpecker at bay. She had been placed there late the night before after being rushed from Carolina Sandhills NWR in South



Carolina where she was trapped.

Without so much as a pause at the cavity's entrance, the newly-acclimated female flew straight to "Old Woody's" tree. With several loud chirps, he bounded down a few branches to her. Much like two

telegraph machines tapping in unison, they foraged for what was sure to become the first of many meals together.

— David Viker,
Pee Dee NWR,
Wadesboro, NC.

Mystery at Togiak: Walrusess Falling Off Cliff



Walrusess wander near the cliff at Togiak NWR where many have plunged to their deaths, leaving biologists puzzled. Photo by Andy Aderman.

Why would a 2,000-pound animal make a difficult climb to the top of a 200-foot bluff only to plunge to its death? That's what has Service biologists at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska scratching their heads these days.

In early September, 60 walrusess did exactly that, leaving the safe waters of Bristol Bay to trek up to the bluff. It was the third time in three years large numbers of walrusess have died from falling off the cliff. The toll might have been higher had Service biologists not intervened, herding 155 walrusess headed for the cliff out of danger.

"They seemed unable to discern the height of the cliffs, and often willingly began descending the steep cliffs, ending in fatal falls," said Carol Wilson, a

Service biologist at the refuge. "Others often followed, as walrusess typically do when hauled out in cohesive herds. Some walrusess were crowded out and inadvertently pushed off as the closely packed herd moved closer to the cliff edge."

The last two years, the weather was stormy, so biologists figured the animals were trying to find higher ground and then fell while trying to find a way back to the main herd. But this year, the weather was clear.

Suicide is not a viable explanation when it comes to walrusess. So what's going on?

"It is a really unusual thing," said Refuge Manager Aaron Archibeque. "We've not been able to document anything like this with a walrus before. We're not at all sure why they're doing it."

Acting Director's Corner

Reasons for Optimism

What a difference a year makes!

At this time last year, we had no budget, we suffered through two disruptive government shutdowns, landmark conservation laws such as the Endangered Species Act were under attack, and we could do no long-term planning because of the uncertainty about future funding.

Today, there are many reasons for optimism. We have a budget for the current fiscal year, there is no threat of a government shutdown, efforts to gut the landmark conservation laws have not succeeded, we are able to plan for the future confident of our funding, and, importantly, we have the strong support of the Department for our conservation mission.

In the past year, the American people have shown that they support the Service's mission. Among the significant issues that confront us, several stand out as deserving particular attention. These include:

- Strengthening the National Wildlife Refuge System as the world's preeminent system of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation.

- Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act in a form that ensures the law's species conservation goal remains intact while continuing to promote fairness, flexibility and incentives for the private sector.

- Working with other government agencies, private organizations and local landowners to conserve watersheds and the myriad plants and animals they support—in particular, focusing on restoring America's fisheries and riparian areas.

- Spearheading a multi-agency effort to study and deal with the problems posed by non-indigenous plants and animals.

- Promoting market-based conservation strategies that reward sustainable use of natural resources while requiring those who harm the environment to make restoration.

- Supporting non-game fish and wildlife conservation efforts, possibly through alternative funding arrangements.

The past year, though difficult, has in some ways made us a stronger agency, better prepared to face the future. By necessity, we have become leaner and more focused on our mission, and we are better able to explain its importance to the American people.

Meanwhile, the phasing in of the ecosystem approach is enabling us to use our limited resources more effectively, we have greatly expanded efforts to work in partnership with those outside the Federal government, including local governments, corporations, and landowners.

We see this trend in the stories found in this issue of *Fish and Wildlife News*:

- Three Virginia farmers work with the Service to restore wetlands on their land not because someone told them to but because they deeply care about the environment.

- More than 75 representatives of state agencies, conservation groups, tribes, and industry meet to help us establish priorities for the future of recreational fisheries.

- A variety of partners, including "Father Goose" Bill Lishman, help the Service air live broadcasts about wildlife conservation to millions of school children.

Everywhere you look, we are working with partners to promote fish and wildlife conservation at all levels of natural resource management. We have reason to be proud. We have a great future ahead of us.



Phil Million

Around the Service


- The Service and a variety of state, private, and tribal partners are restoring the rare "coaster" brook trout in Lake Superior. A crew from the Service's Fishery Resources Office in Ashland, Wisconsin, and the Iron River NFH captured native coasters on remote Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, to take eggs that may eventually grow into hatchery brood stock. Offspring genetically adapted to live in the rocky near-shore waters of Lake Superior will provide the spark for restoring populations of this once abundant stock.

The eggs will be transferred to an isolation facility at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery for two years of disease monitoring. Another cohort of coasters taken in 1995 from Isle Royale is already in isolation at the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Hatchery under a cooperative agreement between the Tribe and the Service. The list of cooperators in the effort to restore coasters includes the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; the Grand Portage Indian Reservation and several other Native American tribes; the Province of Ontario; and private groups like Trout Unlimited.

- Region 4 Director Noreen Clough presented the Mollie H. Beattie Ecosystem Award to the

Savannah-Santee-Pee Dee Ecosystem Team. Clough said the team's exceptional performance, in creating partnerships, successfully completing on-the-ground projects, and in conducting effective outreach, established it as the overall top ecosystem team in the Southeast Region. "In a relatively short time the members of the Savannah-Santee-Pee Dee Ecosystem Team forged a formidable organization that is achieving great results," she said.

- The Service took first place at the National Association for Interpretation's annual "National Media Awards" with the new brochure from Region 6 on the National Bison Range. This is the second year in a row the Service took a national first place media award (last year, our book on Bosque del Apache NWR was a first place winner).

- The Fish and Wildlife Service hosted an open house at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge near Dugway, Utah, September 28. Approximately 150 people took special tours of the refuge and exhibits sponsored by the Service, Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Reclamation, and Project WILD. 

FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

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